

**SHOREVIEW CITY COUNCIL WORKSHOP MEETING
MINUTES
February 14, 2011**

Attendees:

City Council: Mayor Martin and Councilmembers Huffman, Quigley, Wickstrom,
Withhart

Staff: Terry Schwerm, City Manager
Mark Maloney, Public Works Director
Kathleen Nordine, City Planner

Mayor Martin called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

REVIEW OF HOUSING ACTION PLAN

As a participant in the Metropolitan Council's Livable Communities Act, the City is eligible for grants for assistance in providing affordable cycle housing and redevelopment goals. No formal action is required by the Council, but as a participant, the City is required to submit a *Housing Action Plan* to the Metropolitan Council. City Planner Kathleen Nordine reviewed the City's *Housing Action Plan* that will be submitted later in February with the City Council.

Councilmember Wickstrom had a number of questions and comments:

- Suggested that improvement loans be extended to townhouse owners. The Shoreview Economic Development Authority (EDA) is currently considering procedures to extend the Shoreview Energy Home Improvement Loan to townhouse owners.
- Requested that HRC be contacted to extend open hours that would accommodate people who work. This is a request and would not be put in the Housing Plan.
- On page 16, under No. 2, Councilmember Wickstrom asked what type of zoning is referred to. Ms. Nordine responded that a new zoning is being considered that would support compact development, which would be an additional tool for the City to use with redevelopment.
- Asked why some townhouses are not indicated as affordable housing. Ms. Nordine responded that it is due to the county identification data on the parcel, which does not provide that level of detail.
- Requested that the report reflect that many of these goals have already been accomplished. Mr. Schwerm stated that a note will be added as an attachment.

Councilmember Quigley stated that he believes the report reflects what is being done in Shoreview for housing and commended staff for an excellent report.

Mayor Martin thanked staff for the excellent work.

DISCUSSION REGARDING COMMUNITY SURVEY RESULTS/COUNCIL GOALS

The report given to Councilmembers provides an analysis of survey results and identifies some policy implications for the City from those results. The Council briefly discussed each category of results.

Residential Demographics

Mr. Schwerm reported that residential demographics show that 34% of people in Shoreview have lived in the City over 20 years, and seniors comprise approximately 24% of Shoreview residences. A good sign is that as home prices go down, more homes are becoming affordable and people with families are looking to move into the Mounds View and Roseville school districts. The City does a good job providing services to all ages in recreation, but more life-cycle housing is needed and updating of older homes needs to be encouraged to attract young families. Shoreview has always provided a good mix of activities/programs/facilities that serve people of all ages, but needs to be aware of these population shifts.

Councilmember Withhart noted that with baby boomers about to retire, half the population will be between the ages of 45 to 64. There is not enough land, even with redevelopment, to address the aging population demand to stay in Shoreview. He suggested a housing support program to look at retrofitting houses to help older people stay in their own homes. Mr. Schwerm concurred, but indicated that Shoreview is fortunate to have a nice mix of life cycle housing already in the community.

Councilmember Huffman stated that in order to remain a vibrant community, the City needs to bring in young families. He does not want to cater too much to one portion of the population.

Councilmember Wickstrom agreed and stated that there needs to be a balance of services with more resistance to tax increases. She does not believe the focus should be on having everything in Shoreview or build as much senior housing as needed.

Mayor Martin stated that one possible goal to work on would be to balance needs of seniors with the needs of young families in terms of services and housing.

Quality of Life

Mr. Schwerm stated that the good news is that Shoreview continues to be among the top rated cities in the metro area in terms of quality of life. Schools, parks, public trails and public safety score above 70% and are the key factors that people feel are important to the City's quality of life. There are 27% of residents (four times the metro area norm) who cannot find any issue. The growing concern is property taxes. Approximately 40% would strongly support increasing taxes to maintain services while 47% are opposed to any tax increases, a change from the 2005 survey.

Residents feeling most closely connected to their neighborhoods dropped from 63% in 2005, to 44%, and was replaced with close connections to friends and family. Closeness to family and friends may be a result of more empty nesters in the City. Neighborhoods are often times built through contacts among children.

Councilmember Quigley noted that connectivity through personal belonging to various organizations must be considered. Residents do not require a neighborhood for networking.

Councilmember Huffman defined neighborhood as the Community Center, for example, Concert in the Park, Farmer's Market. He suggested increased partnering with schools for shared use of parks.

Maintaining our quality of life is not easy to accomplish. The City will need to continue to support the main factors of adapting services and programs to serve residents, support the school districts, maintain and enhance parks and trails and investing in public safety. There needs to be increased awareness and concern about increasing property taxes because of the growing concern of residents.

Recreational Issues

Mr. Schwerm reported that the City continues to rank high with recreational programs. In most areas, satisfaction has increased with 94% indicating the current offering of programs meets the needs of their household. People are participating in programs in higher numbers, and 45% of respondents have a membership at the Community Center, a 16% increase from the 2005 survey. This can be attributed to the option of monthly billing, affordable rates, and the expansion of health insurance credits.

Based on their use and popularity, it is still important to expand the trail system when the opportunities arise, such as on Hamline Avenue and Hodgson Road. Another policy issue is how to improve and update City parks since there is no dedicated funding source. The Capital Improvement Program (CIP) funds some things, but an ongoing funding source needs to be developed. Currently, the City improves a park every four-five years. Under this schedule, it will take 25-35 years to update all major City parks.

Mayor Martin stated that the City does not have funding for park improvements that were planned six years ago. Perhaps bonding should be considered. The park study needs to be updated and further discussion on upgrading parks is needed.

Councilmember Quigley asked if there is a certain use intensity to each park. This is one factor that should be used to determine which parks should be updated.

Mr. Schwerm stated that after the renovation and installation of the new playground at Sitzer Park, it is very heavily used.

City Services

This rating continues to be high for both telephone contact and individual contacts. Ratings for police and fire protection services increased substantially. The Fire Department has implemented use of duty crews and expanded the number of public fire educational events that it participates in. Medical calls have increased because of the EMT that almost all firefighters have received.

Mr. Schwerm noted that more attention must be given to drinking water quality. This survey rates drinking water quality at 89%, with 10% rating drinking water as fair or poor. Everyone gets the same water but in different pipes. Some issues are from plumbing in the home, but there are still cast iron pipes in the City's water main system. At every opportunity, cast iron pipes are being replaced. A water treatment plant is planned in the CIP to treat water for iron and magnesium. This will improve the water quality.

Councilmember Withhart asked about relining water lines. Mr. Maloney answered that there is cutting edge technology to reline the water main pipes.

Property Maintenance

Although rated highly, the number of residents rating the appearance of their neighborhoods as excellent dropped from 42% to 24%. This validates the action taken by the City in the last few years with code enforcement, rental licensing, and the implementation of the new home loan program. Half of residents indicate they have undertaken home improvements in the last five years. Policy impacts show that actions taken by the EDA need to continue. Goals for maintenance of neighborhoods need to remain in place. Residents would support swifter response from the City on problem properties.

Councilmember Huffman suggested expanding the SHINE program.

Mayor Martin agreed and added that there continues to be a lot of complaints about yards and long grass.

It was the consensus of the Council to discuss these issues separately at an upcoming workshop.

Public Safety

Traffic speeding is identified by 35% of residents as the number one crime issue, although it has decreased from the past survey. Of more concern is the significant increase in residents who identify youth crimes and vandalism as the most serious crime issue. Staff believes this justifies continuing a second traffic deputy in the City, and this will continue to be monitored. Staff would also advocate a permanent speed monitoring sign on Tanglewood and Victoria, so that City speed carts can be placed at other locations during the spring and summer.

Administrative tickets are working well. Last year, \$24,000 worth of administrative tickets were issued in Shoreview.

Mayor Martin stated that she would support additional permanent speed monitoring devices in specific areas throughout the City.

Community Characteristics and Environmental Issues

Mr. Schwerm reported that residents oppose an organized citywide collection system but narrowly support a curb side collection of waste that can be composted. Consistent with surveys since the late 1980s, residents would like more retail and dining opportunities within the City. Shoreview Mall.

Communications Issues

The City newsletter is received by 92% of residents and read by 89%. However, the effectiveness of the newsletter in keeping residents informed dropped from 52% to 37%. Likewise, the effectiveness of the recreation catalog dropped from 61% to 37%. The primary source of information about the City is from local newspapers at 54%. Over 88% of residents have access to the internet, and that will continue to grow. The City's website is rated good or excellent by 92% of users. It has become increasingly important as a communication tool.

It was the consensus of the Council that more discussion is needed as to whether goals need to be changed or discussed in depth to incorporate this most recent information from the community survey.

Councilmember Quigley stated that he would like Councilmembers to each rank the goals in A, B, C priority for further discussion. This is a good analysis, and there is no need for staff to do a lot more work.

DISCUSSION REGARDING TCAAP-VIKINGS STADIUM PROPOSAL

Councilmember Huffman stated that County Commissioner Tony Bennett is promoting the location of a new Vikings Stadium on the TCAAP property, which is located in Arden Hills. Shoreview needs to be a leader and take a position on this issue. His concern is that Commissioner Bennett is not talking to officials in Shoreview, even though Shoreview borders half of the TCAAP site.

Councilmember Withhart stated that he does not understand how the stadium would not generate more local business and requested more information on this premise. He noted that before a stadium is built, I-694 and Highway 10 will have to be upgraded.

Mayor Martin stated that Shoreview previously supported a development plan from Arden Hills for mixed use development on the TCAAP site. There is no information on what has been proposed regarding a Vikings stadium. An actual proposal has yet to be presented, but there is a consensus of concerns. There could be implications on wildlife and trails. It is a major departure from a mixed use plan.

Councilmember Quigley suggested releasing a statement of Shoreview's awareness of current ideas for a stadium development and advising that there are a variety of impacts to all adjacent communities.

Mr. Schwerm stated that staff is also hearing from residents. A letter will be sent from the Council to the Ramsey County Board expressing various concerns (traffic, noise, crime, environmental) about a potential stadium on the TCAAP site.

OTHER ISSUES**Septic Systems**

There remains 15 septic systems operating in the City. Five are located on Buffalo Lane, three of which are failing. Buffalo Lane is a public roadway with sewer and water access half way down the road for a subdivision that was built. The City would have the opportunity to connect these properties with failing systems to City sewer and water if Buffalo Lane was added to the Hamline Avenue project in 2011. Incorporating this work into the Hamline project would mean substantially less cost to homeowners.

Mr. Schwerm stated that staff will talk to homeowners and present this alternative to them. Ultimately, connection to City water and sewer will have to be done. Adding this to the Hamline Avenue project will impact sewer, water and street renewal funds. The City could require the septic systems be fixed, but such action has not been taken to date in other circumstances.

Dog Play Areas

Mayor Martin stated that last year Blaine created dog play areas in hockey rinks. The idea was well received and there were no problems with cleanup. She believes it would be worth a trial in Shoreview. Schwerm noted that the idea has been discussed with the Park and Recreation Commission and will be implemented at a few parks on a trial basis this summer.

Shoreview Foundation

Councilmember Withhart reported that Marcia Soucheray, from the Shoreview Foundation, would like to meet with Council to talk about creating a place for wedding photos, perhaps a walking trail around the pond at the Commons.

Councilmember Wickstrom stated that there is a design plan for wedding photos in the Commons Master Plan, but it has not been formally approved.

Mr. Schwerm stated that he met and gave a copy of the Commons Master Plan to Ms. Soucheray. There is this type of photo setting shown in the Master Plan but the location would need to be revised to have a positive impact on the site. He has invited Ms. Soucheray to the next Council workshop to further discuss this concept.

Turtle Lake Homeowners

Turtle Lake Homeowners Association has completed a survey of all residents on the lake to find out if they are interested in augmentation of the lake level. Representatives from the homeowners association will be coming to the City Council's March workshop meeting. They will likely be requesting information on the cost to do a preliminary engineering analysis regarding potential augmentation of the lake.

After some discussion, the Council indicated that there are still many questions that will need to be answered on the potential augmentation of Turtle Lake. Schwerm indicated it would be discussed further at the workshop meeting.

Human Rights Commission

The Mayor indicated that the Human Rights Commission would like to attend an upcoming meeting to discuss their current work program and other initiatives that they have been researching. The Council asked that they be scheduled on an upcoming workshop meeting.

The meeting adjourned at 10:05 p.m.